

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 03346 301029Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-05 SCA-01 DEAE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00
USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 SS-15 PRS-01 PA-02
/088 W

-----006384 301109Z /10

R 300932Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 756
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 3346

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, CASC, NL
SUBJ: PROPOSAL FOR PREVENTING DRUG OVERDOSES

1. THE RECENT DEATH IN AMSTERDAM OF A YOUNG AMERICAN FROM
DRUG OVERDOSE POINTS UP A DANGER. VISITING HEROIN USERS FACE
UNACCUSTOMEDLY HIGH LEVELS OF PURITY IN THE DRUG SOLD ON THE
AMSTERDAM MARKET. THIS PARTICULAR VICTIM DIED WITH THE NEEDLE
STILL IN HIS ARM AND THE SYRINGE NOT YET EMPTY.

2. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE LARGE INFLUX OF AMERICANS DUE IN
AMSTERDAM THIS SUMMER, WE THINK SOME LIVES COULD BE SAVED
IF WE COULD GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS THAT HEROIN HERE IS BOTH
CHEAPER (ABOUT \$40 PER ONE GRAM PACKET) AND OF MORE LETHAL
QUALITY (35 PERCENT PURITY FOR NO. 3 SOUTHEAST ASIAN HEROIN,
WITH SOME PACKETS GOING UP TO 50) THAN THE DOSES SOLD BACK
HOME. NOT ALL USERS ARE LIKELY TO LEARN THIS FROM SELLERS
OR FROM STREET-WISE USERS BECAUSE DUTCH ADDICTS MAY HAVE
DEVELOPED A TOLERANCE TO HIGHER LEVELS, MAKING THEM INSENSITIVE
TO THE THREAT POSED TO OTHERS. THE APPEARANCE IN RECENT WEEKS
OF 90 PERCENT PURE HEROIN SOLD BY THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT ADDS
A MENACING NEW DIMENSION TO THE PROBLEM.

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3. THE QUESTION IS PARTLY HOW TO REACH THE USERS. ONE
PROPOSAL IS TO DISTRIBUTE A MESSAGE ALONG THE FOLLOWING
LINES IN PLACES WHERE THE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE YOUNG
AMERICANS ARE LIKELY TO BE FOUND, INCLUDING LOW-BUDGET
STUDENT HOSTELS. QUOTE NOTICE TO AMERICANS: THE SALE,
POSSESSION AND USE OF HEROIN IS ILLEGAL IN THE
NETHERLANDS. VIOLATORS OF THE LAW MAY BE SENTENCED TO

FROM ONE YEAR TO UP TO 12 IN PRISON. THE OSSS OF A YEAR OR MORE OF ONE'S LIFE IS SERIOUS ENOUGH. OF GREATER CONCERN IS THE DANGER OF AN OVERDOSE. THOSE WHO USE HEROIN SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE ONE-GRAM PACKETS SOLD IN AMSTERDAM HAVE AN AVERAGE PURITY OF 35 PERCENT. THIS IS ALMOST SEVEN TIMES STRONGER THAN THE HEROIN RETAILED IN THE UNITED STATES. IN SOME CASES THE PACKETS IN AMSTERDAM CONTAIN HEROIN WITH AN AVERAGE PURITY OF 90 PERCENT. THOSE USED TO THE DILUTED PRODUCT SOLD IN THE US COULD DIE FROM A SIMILAR DOSAGE FROM WHAT THEY BUY HERE. UNQUOTE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING THE WISDOM AND LEGALITY OF GIVING ADVICE ON USE AND DOSAGE. WOULD THE DEPARTMENT APPROVE OUR ASKING (A) THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF HEALTH, (B) PRIVATE CLINICS OR (C) AMERICAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO DISTRIBUTE A NOTICE AND SUPPORT THE IDEA? IF NECESSARY, THE EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED TO PAY FOR THE PRINTING COSTS.
MCCLOSKEY

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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